

Postponed 12/16/2021

Postponed 01/13/2022

RESOLUTION NO. 21-1273

WHEREAS, drivers who violate traffic control regulations impair our quality of life by creating a danger in the City of Huntsville (hereinafter “the City”) with the most prevalent causes of accidents identified as following too closely, running red lights or stop signs, and failure to yield; and

WHEREAS, in the last eight years, over three thousand intersection accidents occurred in the City (many of which were side impact or “t-bone” accidents with blunt force trauma particularly to the head and chest, as a commonly associated injury), and the primary contributing cause was identified as traffic signal violations; and

WHEREAS, traffic signal accidents disrupt the commute of citizens causing bottlenecks on our roadways especially during the peak hours of morning, noon, and early evening; and

WHEREAS, despite the continuous evaluation and adjustment efforts of the City’s Traffic Engineering team, the number of traffic signal accidents is on the rise in our City with a 19% increase in these types of accidents since 2012; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that automated traffic camera enforcement in municipal areas is a highly effective method for detecting traffic signal violations and decreasing the number of severe accidents; and

WHEREAS, current Alabama Law provides that failing to stop and remain stopped at a traffic control signal which is emitting a steady red signal is a criminal misdemeanor but requires a police officer or other eyewitness to make a verified complaint to a sworn magistrate; and

WHEREAS, a number of municipalities around the State of Alabama have already adopted laws to allow the use of automated photographic traffic enforcement through the imposition of civil fines as a way to leverage resources while helping to protect the health, safety, and welfare of citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, urges the Huntsville/Madison County state legislative delegation to take action to reduce danger and bodily injuries and grant the City of Huntsville the authority to establish a program to enforce traffic signal violations through the use of photographic evidence and issuance of civil fines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, wishes to engage legal, engineering, law enforcement, and any other department or entity of the City to investigate the resources required to implement such a program and report back to the Council within three months of the state authority is conveyed there by enabling enactment of local ordinance through normal procedures.

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ADOPTED this the _____ day of _____, 2022.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the _____ day of _____, 2022.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville